

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a receiving unit that receives print jobs in which an individual print job can comprise image data based on multiple document images of various sizes and/or orientations; and

a processing unit for processing the received image data so that the multiple document images can be printed on a sheet of paper,

wherein said processing unit comprises an identifying unit for identifying, in a printing area to which at least one document image is assigned, an area which is not yet covered with document images, ~~and~~ a judging unit for judging whether a new document image or images can be laid out in said the identified area, and a generating unit for generating printing data of said at least one document image and the new document image or images if the judging unit judges that the new document image or images can be laid out in the identified area.

2. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein, if said judging unit judges that no new document image or images can be laid out in said area, a new document image or new document images are designated to be laid out on another sheet of paper.

3. (Original) An image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processing unit lays out document images adjacent to each other.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:
receiving an individual print job containing image data based on multiple document images of various sizes and/or orientations; and
processing the received image data so that the multiple document images can be printed on a sheet of paper,

wherein said processing step comprises ~~an identifying step for~~ the steps of identifying, in a printing area to which at least one document image is assigned, an area which is not yet covered with document images, and a judging step for judging whether a new document image or images can be laid out in said identified area, and generating printing data of said at least one document image and the new document image or images if a judgment is made that the new document image or images can be laid out in the identified area.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for image processing, comprising a sequence of instructions which execute the following steps:
receiving an individual print job comprising image data based on multiple document images of various sizes and/or orientations; and
processing the received image data so that the multiple document images can be printed on a sheet of paper,

wherein said processing step comprises ~~an identifying step for~~ the steps of identifying, in a printing area to which at least one document image is assigned, an area which is not yet covered with document images, and a judging step for judging whether a new document image or images can be laid out in said area, and generating printing data of said at least one document image and the new document image or images if a judgment is made that the new document image or images can be laid out in the identified area.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving an individual print job comprising image data based on multiple document images of various sizes;

a detecting unit for detecting a maximum size of document images ~~based on the received image data;~~

a selecting unit for selecting paper with a size equal to or larger than the detected maximum size; and

a forming unit for forming images based on the image data on the selected paper.

7. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving an individual print job comprising image data based on multiple document images of various sizes;

a detecting unit for detecting a maximum size of document images ~~based on the received image data;~~

a calculating unit for calculating a scaling factor that causes the detected maximum size to match with the size of a print area;

a processing unit for scaling up or down the sizes of the document images based on the calculated scaling factor; and

a forming unit for forming images based on the processed image data on the print area.

8. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus of claim 7, wherein the print area is the entire area of a sheet of paper.

9. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus of claim 7, wherein the print area is an area obtained by dividing the entire area of a sheet of paper into equal parts.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:
receiving an individual print job comprising image data based on multiple document images of various sizes;
detecting a maximum size of document images ~~based on the received image data~~;
calculating a scaling factor that causes the detected maximum size to match with the size of a print area; and
scaling up or down the sizes of the document images based on the calculated scaling factor.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for image processing, comprising a sequence of instructions that execute the following steps:

- receiving image data based on multiple document images of various sizes;
- detecting a maximum size of document images ~~based on the received image data;~~
- calculating a scaling factor that causes the detected maximum size to match with the size of a print area; and
- scaling up or down the sizes of the document images based on the calculated scaling factor.

Claims 12-16. (Canceled)